

EDITORIALS

State Department and the Seamen's Bill

All American labor joins with the International Seamen's Union in urging the prompt enactment of the King-Schulte Bill for the deportation of certain alien seamen.

The bill has been favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Immigration and the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization. It has been on the calendar of both Houses for two months.

In consideration by Congress is delayed by the unreasoning hostility of the Department of State.

The essential purpose of the measure is to make the immigration restriction and exclusion laws applicable to alien seamen as seamen to the United States in either domestic or foreign vessels and thus prevent the smuggling of immigrants into our country by sea.

The smuggling policy, extensively operated by shipowners, is rooted in the fact that all nations provide for a minimum number of persons to constitute the crew of a vessel, leaving it to the shipowner or master to engage as many more as he desires.

Both foreign and domestic shipowners have persistently padded the crew of vessels bound for the United States. Statistics show that this padding often runs from 25 to 100 extra seamen.

Under the present Seamen's Act seamen can leave ship as soon as it reaches safe harbor. The surplus seamen immediately land and are absorbed in the working population, adding to the already large oversupply of laborers. Frequently officers of foreign vessels have been denied entry into the United States because of their crews not required to man the departing ships.

The main provision of the King-Schulte Bill endeavors to block this smuggling by providing that each vessel shall take out as many alien seamen as it brings in.

American seamen and the American labor movement have petitioned for the enactment of this deportation bill since 1923, when the evil it is designed to curtail became rampant.

In former Congresses the bill passed the Senate twice by practically a unanimous vote. The House passed it once under suspension of the rules with only 17 negative votes.

The bill has been and is opposed by some shipping interests, foreign and domestic, on the claim that it will prove costly and inconvenient for them to deport so many alien seamen they bring in.

When the measure was introduced in the present Congress opposition to it was expressed by the British Ambassador to the United States, who evidently represented British shipowners.

The American Department of State joined with the foreign governments in opposing the measure despite the fact that competent authorities declare it does not violate existing treaties.

The State Department's position is the one thing which prevents the bill from coming before the House. It would seem that the time has come when an objection from the British Ambassador to proposed legislation by the American Congress for the benefit of American seamen and American labor generally should not be of the weight with the State Department as to cause it to use its influence against the measure.

The question is, Does the State Department think it is of more importance to satisfy the desires of foreign shipowners to smuggle alien seamen into the United States to work than the welfare of the American labor movement and the American people as expressed through a number of favorable votes in Congress, practically all of them unanimous?

The King-Schulte Alien Seamen Deportation Bill should be released from the Senate and House calendars and introduced into American state law without delay.

Taxing the Rich

The new tax bill passed by the House of Representatives is a step in the right direction. For revenue purposes of the Federal Government it levies an assessment of only \$250,000,000 on wealthy individuals in face of the fact that a much larger amount is equitably required to help meet the tremendous expense forced upon the Government by the war.

The new surtax on individual incomes begins with \$1 per cent on net incomes between \$5,000 and \$50,000 and steps upward to 75 per cent on incomes in excess of \$50,000. The surtaxes are expected to yield a revenue of \$500,000,000.

There is also a new excess profits tax, which is expected to yield \$80,000,000, and an increase in the graduated tax on the net income of corporations which will raise about \$150,000,000.

The bill as reported by the Ways and Means Committee and adopted by the House is a distinct departure downward from President Roosevelt's recommendations in his message to Congress urging tax rates sufficiently high to break up the menacing aggregations of accumulated wealth.

It is, nevertheless, a good beginning and will undoubtedly be used as a basis for larger and larger Government assessments on big fortunes which are built up through the manifestly inequitable distribution of the earnings of industry imposed on the masses by those who own and control our wealth-producing system.

The accumulated wealth from which the new tax bill proposes to take a small portion is largely the product of money and money who work for salaries and wages. Corporations and individual employers should contribute with organized labor in building up wage standards adequate to furnish a living wage large enough to provide an equitable distribution of the earnings of industry among the workers. Instead of doing this employers have kept and continue to keep wages low, hours long and throw millions into unemployment to be supported by various forms of Government charity. At the same time they disburse regular and extra dividends to stockholders and accumulate large surpluses which are frequently used in various subversive activities against the public welfare.

Labor's position regarding the question of wealth distribution was expressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, four years ago in his historic speech to the 1931 convention of the A. F. of L. He declared that unemployment is largely caused by the action of corporations who accumulate great wealth by imposing low wages, and consequently restrict the power of the workers. The principle involved here should be remedied by adopting labor's demand for wages and by giving power high enough so that the earnings of industry "shall be equitably distributed among the working men and women who make this wealth possible."

Mr. Green added that if the corporations refused to grant this just demand labor would "call upon the Government to exercise its taxing power by distributing these large fortunes back to the people."

The 1931 convention of the A. F. of L. endorsed the position taken by Mr. Green. Subsequently the workers have been demanding that the principle have found expression in a modest way in the \$250,000,000 tax bill which the House of Representatives has passed.

GERMAN GOODS BOYCOTT URGED BY MASS. LABOR

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Springfield, Mass.—The annual convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, which opened here today, adopted a resolution calling for a boycott of German goods and services.

Italian-Ethiopian War Hits AFL Union Racketeers

Executive Council Urges Roosevelt to Support Mediation to Avert Aggression by Mussolini—Recommendations Anti-War Protests by Workers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Atlantic City, N. J.—Firmly declaring its opposition to war as a method of settling the dispute between Italy and Ethiopia, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in a session here, urged President Roosevelt to take part in the mediation proposed by the League of Nations to prevent the threatened outbreak.

The action of the Council was announced by William Green, president of the Federation. The Council's statement declared that the Italian-Ethiopian war is a direct result of the aggression of Italy against Ethiopia.

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor expressed its deep concern over the threatened war between Italy and Ethiopia and the controversy between the two nations," the statement declared.

"We are convinced that the only way to prevent the outbreak of this war is through the mediation of the League of Nations."

"We urge President Roosevelt to take part in the mediation proposed by the League of Nations."

"We also urge the workers of the United States to support the League of Nations and to oppose any war which might result from the aggression of Italy against Ethiopia."

"We further urge the workers of the United States to support the League of Nations and to oppose any war which might result from the aggression of Italy against Ethiopia."

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Senator O'Mahoney's Bill to License Business Seeks Higher Standards of Living for Workers

Guarantees Labor's Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively and Prevents Employers from Interfering with that Right—Bans Child Labor and Discrimination Against Women Workers—Refusing to Deal with Elected Representatives of Their Employees—Outlaws Employers Who Have Armed Forces Called Out to Protect Strikebreakers.

Authorizes Fixing Minimum Wage Rates and Maximum Hours—Stipulates that Wages Shall Be Raised and Hours Reduced According to Increased Efficiency of Labor Under Machine Production—Requires Profit-Sharing with Employees to Equitably Distribute Large Corporate Surpluses—Protects Stockholders.

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Washington, D. C.—Regulation of the commerce by licensing business with emphasis placed on the fundamental rights of working men and women, was proposed in a bill offered in the Senate by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming.

The measure embodies the program of the American Federation of Labor and would replace in statute law a number of the labor provisions now scattered in numerous laws.

The bill would require employers to accede to the code of fair practices which were adopted when the Supreme Court held the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional.

The objects which Senator O'Mahoney's bill has in view are to require corporations and other concerns to accede to the code of fair practices now in effect under the National Industrial Recovery Act.

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GREEN VISIONS AFL CAMPAIGN TO EXPEL REDS FROM UNIONS

Executive Council Says Delegates Will Consider "Questions Affecting Economic, Social and Industrial Welfare of All Classes of Workers."

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Atlantic City, N. J.—The inauguration of a new campaign to expel communists from unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor was predicted by William Green, president of the Federation, who is here presiding at the quarterly meeting of the Executive Council.

Charging that the Communists were a menace to the labor movement, Green declared that the Federation would expel any union which carried out the orders of the Moscow government.

"When it is clearly proven that a union is carrying out the orders of the Moscow government, we will expel it from the Federation," Green declared.

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A. F. of L. Annual Convention Meets in Atlantic City on October 7

Executive Council Says Delegates Will Consider "Questions Affecting Economic, Social and Industrial Welfare of All Classes of Workers."

By A. F. of L. News Service.
Washington, D. C.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor notified the affiliated unions of the fifty-fifth annual convention of the Federation, which will open in Atlantic City, Pa., on October 7.

The convention will be held at the Hotel Hamilton, Atlantic City, Pa., from October 7 to October 12.

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55,000 JOBS GIVEN WORK RELIEF EMPLOYMENT

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Washington, D. C.—The Works Progress Administration officials announced that the program had provided employment under the \$3,000,000,000 program.

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